



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY STRIPES

November 29, 2007

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### User Acceptance Test: A Great Learning Experience for All

After long hours and a week away from home, the first STRIPES User Acceptance Test (UAT) was a success. The successful outcome is determined by actively testing and verifying that the STRIPES configuration meets DOE's functional and technical requirements. The ambitious UAT week could not have been completed without the full commitment and engagement of the 30+ participants. Throughout the week, meaningful and collaborative discussions with UAT representatives from Procurement, Finance, Budget, Policy, Program Offices, and IT organizations also took place. STRIPES UAT participants had a wide range of STRIPES experience ranging from those who had been with the project from its inception to those who had never seen STRIPES before.



*During a break, participants discover new things about STRIPES.*

During UAT I, the STRIPES classroom training was piloted and received very positive reviews from participants. A key recommendation and outcome from the Training Pilot is that the training manual will become a comprehensive User Guide which users can reference after the training. At the same time, a second group was testing the system by following a set of pre-written scripts to perform actions that are common in most procurement actions. These participants sent actions through the STRIPES/STARS connections to test not only STRIPES, but the functionality of the integration between systems.

While UAT I was an overall positive experience, it did have its hiccups. Participants quickly realized that getting trained on the system would have helped with understanding the general logic and flow of the system. Also, participants experienced technical challenges throughout the week as the integration software was being tested and tweaked for the first time. But everyone kept an up-beat attitude and repeatedly shared that they were glad to find these "glitches" sooner rather than later. More than 200 comments or concerns were received of which approximately 175 already have been consolidated or closed.

Scott Stephenson from Savannah River Site is one of the testers who has been with STRIPES from the beginning. Toward the end of UAT Mr. Stephenson shared the following, “What I have seen and experienced this week has made my seven year investment in STRIPES worthwhile.” Positive feedback also came from new users as well. According to Jeff Fogg from Idaho Operations Office, “Each day of using STRIPES got better and better. As a STRIPES Point of Contact (for Idaho Operation Office), I now feel I can really tell my office what to expect from STRIPES.”

UAT II will allow the original participants to verify fixes for the identified issues from UAT I. They will have more time to complete unscripted or ‘free-form’ tests during UAT II also. A few participants will return to

Germantown, Maryland to work directly with the integration developers. Most participants, however, will conduct testing from their home site to ensure STRIPES will function properly at each locale.



*STRIPES Project Managers at UAT Kick-off*

*Left: Douglas L. Baptist (DOE)*

*Right: James Catalano (IBM)*

## Policy Working Side-by-Side with STRIPES

The DOE Office of Procurement and Assistance Policy (Policy) demonstrated its ongoing commitment to STRIPES by participating in the UAT. Policy worked closely with Procurement colleagues to understand how the system will be used. Policy also identified new actions to help prepare for STRIPES in addition to the on-going clause work.

One such action is for Policy to provide pre-written choices within the Statements Field. The Statements Field allows Contracting Officers and Contract Specialists to add DOE boiler plate logistical information from a list of statements such as the time proposals are due or note a Federal Technical Data Solutions (FedTeDS) reference. In order to be useful, the Statement Field options will be general and high-level for use in a document such as an SF-33 or Solicitation, Offer and Award Form. STRIPES users will still have the option of adding their own statements, but this feature offers efficiency and easy access to required or common statements.

Policy’s participation in UAT did not set-back progress with the essential clause consolidation efforts. Policy is finishing up its review of 130 Section H clause recommendations submitted by the General Council earlier this month. Currently, Policy is focusing on Section L clauses which will go through a similar review process.

## STRIPES Project Information

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